A memorandum seeking central assistance has been received for drought relief works from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, An Inter-Ministerial Central Team has recently visited the drought affected areas of the state.

Statement

Allocation & release in respect of major Schemes being implemented by the DAC in the State of Andhra Pradesh

(Rs.in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	2008-09 Allocation	2008-09 Release	2009-10 Allocation	2009-10 Release (As on 17.11.2009)
1	Macro Management Scheme	7261.11	3428.72	7261.11	3267.50
2	Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC)	1700.00	882.12	1115.00	652.40
3	National Horticulture Mission (NHM)	19694.49	12968.39	13405.58	6403.59
4	Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms	1436.30	1025.87	1430.88	989.30
5	National Food Security Mission (NFSM)	10603.00	8414.00	14715.00	9391.00
6	Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM)	5000.00	3000.00	3000.00	1111.81
7	Micro Irrigation	14931.63	9727.31	16832.01	6930.66
8	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)	31657.00	29717.00	41000.00	25625.00
9	National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility		175.00		

Lower production of kharif crop due to poor monsoon

159. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that due to poor monsoon, the production of kharif crop is likely to come down;

(b) if so, the estimates of kharif production in the country;

(c) the areas of North India that have been affected due to poor monsoon; and

(d) what has been done by Government to augment timely supply of rabi inputs to poor farmers, particularly farmers of Bundelkhand region in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The poor monsoon in the Kharif season has impacted Kharif sown area and also production. As per the 1st advance Estimates released on 3rd November, 2009, production of Kharif foodgrains in the country is estimated at 96.63 million tonnes as compared to 117.70 million tonnes during 2008-09. The production of Kharif oilseeds is also lower at 15.23 million tonnes against 17.88 million tonnes last year.

(c) Major States in North India which experienced deficient monsoon include Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and also Bihar.

(d) With a view to augment timely supply of rabi inputs to farmers, National Conference on Rabi Campaign 2009-10 was organized wherein States specific problems on availability of fertilizers, seeds etc. were addressed. Early rabi planning for capitalizing the soil moisture of late rains (September end to 1st week of October) was facilitated by the Ministry of extending expert support to States. Planning for additional areas under Boro/summer rice, wheat, pulses and coarse cereals for increased production in rabi is finalized. Measures for tie-up for input supply, advance financial allocation and releases to the States for timely completion of Rabi operation are ensured through conferences and interactions with the States including Uttar Pradesh.

Private sector participation in agriculture sector

†160. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to formulate a policy on private sector's participation in the infrastructure segment of the agriculture sector particularly for integrating production and marketing related activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it would help small and marginal farmers of the country in achieving better price for their produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) There is no proposal for formulating a specific policy on private sector's participation in the infrastructure segment of the agriculture sector. However, the National Policy for Farmers announced in 2007 envisages private sector participation in the following:-

(i) Inclusion of private sector Research & Development (R&D) institutions under the; umbrella of National Agricultural Research System.

(ii) Development of terminal markets for agriculture in public-private partnership mode to provide better market access to farmers with better price realization in a transparent trading environment with suitable backward and forward linkages.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi